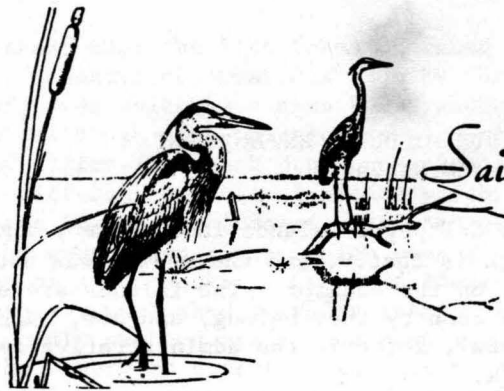




Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

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EAGLES - EAGLES - EAGLES

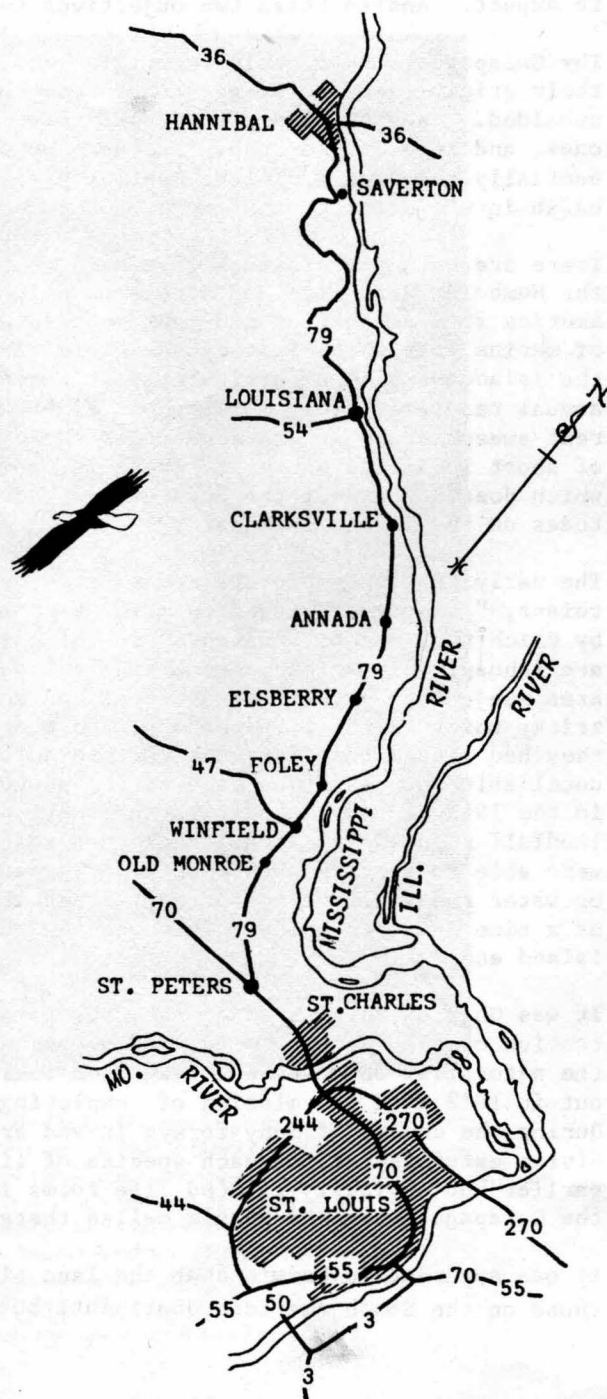
Again the St. Louis Audubon Society has been asked to participate in the Mississippi Valley Winter Bald Eagle Count. This will be the 6th time we have taken part.

The date is Saturday, February 19th, and the area is from Winfield Dam, north to Saverton.

Last year 200 "birders" braved the cold on February 20th and the official count was 96 eagles, 60 adult, 29 immature and 7 unknown. Again we have the able leadership of McCune Dudley and Gus Artus of Louisiana and Earl Hath, President of the Society. They will map the area and different groups will cover specified areas.

The meeting place will be Duvall's Restaurant in Clarksville at 8:00 a.m. Clarksville is 1-1/2 hours drive from the Clayton Court House. It is reached by following Interstate 70 to St. Peters, then north on Route 79. Coffee and doughnuts will await you at Duvall's. Come one - come all!

For further information call St. Louis Audubon Society, 965-8642.



YOUR BULLETIN IS PRINTED ON
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GALAPAGOS - A UNIQUE WILDLIFE ENVIRONMENT
by Patty Hecker

When we said that we were going to the Galapagos Islands last summer, almost always the first question was, "Where on earth is that?", and the answer was usually a surprise: Directly south of Saint Louis, on the equator. The islands are some 600 miles west of the coast of Ecuador, to which country they belong, and are, happily now (with the exception of Chatham or San Cristobal, which is the administrative center and has about 2000 inhabitants) a national park.

The next question after where was usually why, and of course for us it was to see some rare animals, and hopefully, to be able to approach them closely, as we had been led to expect. And in these two objectives we were truly rewarded.

The Galapagos are volcanic in origin, and the theory most current at present about their origin seems to suggest that once they were a larger land mass that has since subsided. They comprise at present some five fairly large islands, about ten smaller ones, and innumerable seagirt rocks, covering an area roughly 200 miles square. Essentially they are a violent meeting place of jagged rock and water, and it is in this harsh intertidal zone that much of the indigenous life is found.

There are two major factors that have determined the climate of these islands. One is the Humboldt Current, that stream of cold water which sweeps up the coast of South America from Antarctica and then west across the equator, bringing with it an upwelling of marine life which is the base of intricate food chains. The other is the fact that the islands are in a particularly arid region of the Pacific basin, with a very low annual rainfall. Only for a short time during the year, when the North Equatorial current sweeps south at the equator is there any rain at all, and this is in the form of short localized showers. There is, however, much fog during the rest of the year, which does not affect the coastal zone, but does help to sustain life at higher altitudes on the larger islands.

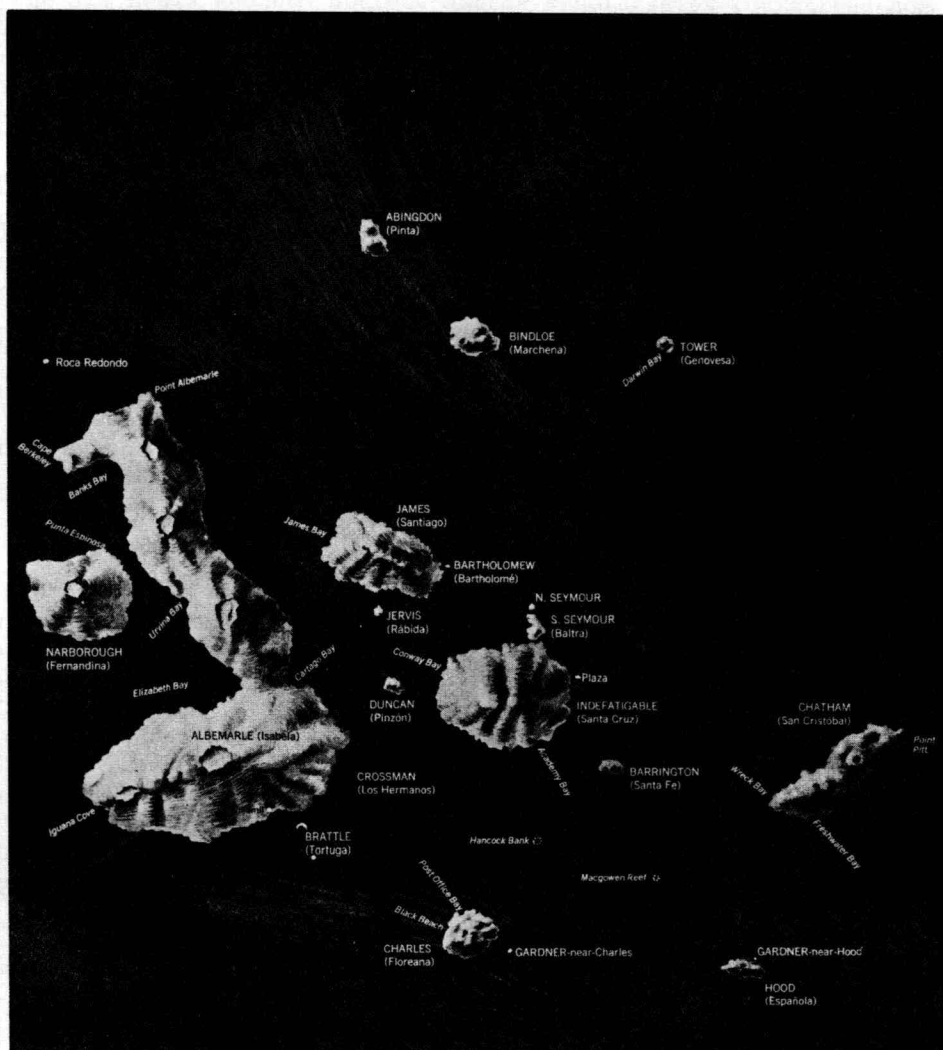
The early Spanish explorers and pirates, who named these islands for the great tortoises, "galapagos", found on most of them, also called them "las Islas Encantadas", by which they meant "bewitched" in the most malevolent sense of the word. The islands are inhospitable volcanic rock and include at least one still active volcano, in an area subject to erratic winds, fogs and conflicting currents. Finding them was a tricky thing in the 17th century, and there was little reason to look for them, as they had little to offer; the tortoises for their meat, and some scarce, scanty and unreliable sources of water. Later, however, at the height of the whaling industry in the 19th century, the ships that were away from home for years at a time found any landfall refreshing. And it was then that they discovered that the giant tortoises were able to survive aboard ship for great lengths of time, up to a year, without food or water and still be a source of fresh meat. Some ships packed as many as a thousand at a time in their holds. This was the beginning of a rapid decline for the fragile island ecology.

It was Charles Darwin, of course, who first brought the Galapagos Islands to the attention of the western world, and whose name is linked forever with them. Darwin was the naturalist on board HMS Beagle, a small ship which the British Admiralty had sent out in 1832 with the mission of exploring and mapping around the southern hemisphere. During the course of many forays in and around South America Darwin's ideas of the divine establishment of each species of life was wavering, in the face of evidence of earlier but obviously related life forms in fossil deposits. He was well ready for the Galapagos when the Beagle called there for five weeks in 1835.

It was apparent to Darwin that the land birds and animals were closely related to those on the South American continent, but differed from them in many respects. It

was also apparent that the life forms differed slightly from island to island. Perhaps the most dramatic observations made by the young naturalist concerned the rather drab group of birds which have come to be known as Darwin's Finches; he was struck by the fact that although some thirteen species of small dark finch appear to be closely related, they differ from each other principally in size and shape of bill, and so seem to fill different ecological niches which, with a more varied spectrum of birds, would have been filled by birds of unrelated genera. The most surprising of these finches is the woodpecker finch, which uses a cactus spine to pry insects from wood, in the manner of a woodpecker. Darwin's ideas finally crystallized in his famous Origin of Species, published 22 years later. It caused an incredible furor, and changed profoundly western man's understanding of himself in relation to his environment. But the theory of evolution is part of our way of thinking now, and we could approach the Galapagos with some measure of informed delight.

(To be continued)



This Island I called the Duke of York's Island: there lying to the Eastward of that (a fine round Island) which I called the Duke of Norfolk's Island. And to the Westward of the Duke of York's Island, lieth another curious Island, which I called the Duke of Albemarle's; in which is a commodious Bay or Harbour, where you may ride Landlocked: And before the said Bay lieth another Island, the which I called Sir John Narborough's: And between York and Albemarle's Island lieth a small one, which my fancy led me to call Cowley's enchanted Island; for we having had a sight of it upon several points of the Compass, it appear'd always in many different Forms, sometimes like a ruined Fortification; upon another Point, like a great City . . .

A REVIEW OF ST. LOUIS AREA 1971 BIRDING
by J. Earl Comfort

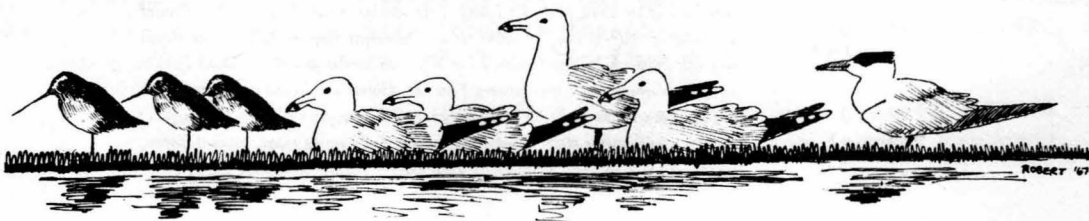
A review of the 1971 birding in the St. Louis area shows 277 species were listed for a high total by the many local birders that scoured the environs. The composite 1970 list was 274. In the AOU checklist order the 1971 top 10 species were eared grebe, glossy ibis, cinnamon teal, Swainson's hawk, ruffed grouse, yellow rail, black-legged kittiwake, snowy owl, saw-whet owl and vermilion flycatcher. The bird of the year was Jim Comfort's cinnamon teal at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area in St. Charles Co. on Oct. 27th. Some of the top 10 birds had multiple listers. Some exceptions were the kittiwake by Jim Ruschill at Portage De Sioux in St. Charles Co., the vermilion by Viola Bucholtz at Busch, the rail by Ernie and Kay Mueller in St. Charles Co., the Swainson's by Floyd and Vi Hallett in St. Louis Co. and the ruffed grouse in Warren Co. by Mary Wiese, Nell Menke, and Father Sullivan. In spite of Jim's efforts to produce his teal for others he was unsuccessful.

Some other 1971 rarities were white pelican, whistling swan, old squaw and white-winged scoter ducks, Miss. kite, golden eagle, turkey, common gallinule, piping plover, willet, marbled and Hudsonian godwits, northern phalarope, avocet, Iceland gull, red-shafted flicker, fish crow, yellow-headed blackbird, evening grosbeak, sharp-tailed and Bachman's sparrows and Smith's longspur. There were many other excellent listings.

Though the shorebirds failed to put a representative on the top ten they were prominent in the also ran class. The warblers gave us the largest total, with 35 kinds followed by the finches with 33, shorebirds, 30, ducks, 23 and the hawks and their allies with 16 species. These 5 families made up 137 of the 277. The birding place visited most was the August A. Busch Wildlife Area where nature enthusiasts enjoyed botanizing, butterflying, and other offerings of nature in addition to the plentiful supply of birds. Another popular area was the Shaw's Garden Arboretum in Franklin Co., where the St. Louis Audubon Society under Earl Hath's direction and assisted by Gus Ulbrich held many field trips. Other spots visited quite often were the Creve Coeur Lake, the Alton Dam and the Calhoun Division of the Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge near Illinois Pere Marquette State Park. Calhoun is supervised by Dick Vasse where he and his wife, Sally constantly check the birds to our advantage. Some examples were Sally's pelicans and swans.

The past year gave us an all time high total of St. Louis Area observers who listed 200 or more 1971 bird species. (Subspecies were ignored.) The ambitious birders who made the "200 club" were high man on the totem pole, Dr. Ralph Laffey with 247 species followed by Kathryn Arhos, 245, Kyrle Boldt, 245, Helen Hill, 241, Eleanor Marcus, 239, Earl Comfort, 239, Phoebe Snetsinger, 237, Jim Ruschill, 234, Kay Mueller, 232, Dick Anderson, 231, Ernie Mueller, 230, Betty Samuelson, 229, Viola Bucholtz, 226, Andy Bromet, 226, Vi Hallett, 225, Floyd Hallett, 225, Jack VanBenthuyzen, 222, Claudia Spener, 219, Rose Ann Bodman, 218, Lynn Schaefer, 217, Sally Vasse, 217, Mildred Schaefer, 215, George Barker, 212, Helen Wuestenfeld, 211, Terry Barker, 209, Walter Kraus, 209, Marge Self, 207, Mark Kraus, 207, Nancy Strickling, 205, Earl Hath, 202, and Paul Bauer, 200. There may have been other 200 listers who failed to report. There were several near misses.

Compiling the coveted lists of 200 or better represented many pleasant hours afield with friendly competition. No matter how hard we strive to get an imposing area list, we always do our utmost to find our new birds for others, regardless of the fact our assistance may cause others to surpass us.



NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

FLOOD PLAIN SUIT

The St. Louis Audubon Board has voted to contribute \$200.00 to help finance a law-suit directed toward protecting America's flood plains from development. The Coalition for the Environment is preparing a suit alleging that regulations under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 give inadequate protection to the flood plains. National Audubon has endorsed the filing of the suit.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Each year the St. Louis Audubon Society awards scholarships for attendance at Audubon Summer Camps. Through this effort the society helps promote conservation education. Previous recipients such as Mrs. Nan Clark, Miss Sandra Thornton, Miss Sarah Owen and Mr. Bill Brush have helped young people develop an appreciation of our wildlife heritage and a concern for the quality of our environment.

The National Audubon Society operates four summer camps. The Maine Camp specializes in the study of sea coast and marine life. The Connecticut Camp emphasizes ecology and concerns itself with the diversity of living things, their interrelationships and adaptations. The Camp of the West in Wyoming provides first-hand experience with nature through an integrated sequence of daily field trips. The camp in Wisconsin is a popular choice for the St. Louis scholarship applicants because its program deals with the natural history and ecology of an area similar to our Missouri forests. The camp also provides an introduction to northern Wisconsin's beautiful lake country.

The camps are open only to persons 18 years or older and therefore the scholarships also follow this policy. Applications are available by writing to Edward Ortleb, 5663 Pernod Avenue, 63139. One letter of recommendation is required from each applicant. Deadline for return of applications is March 10th. Selections will be made the following week.



BUS TOUR TO FIRST WEST CENTRAL AUDUBON CONFERENCE - GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

National Audubon Society will not have an annual meeting in 1972, but rather a series of conferences and workshops. Members of this area will find special interest in the West Central Regional Conference and Workshop to be held in Grand Island, Nebraska, March 17-20.

There will be field trips to Platte River, Sandhill Crane and Waterfowl Staging Areas. At the general session talks will be given on the endangered Platte, and "How the Platte Can Be Saved" by Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice President, National Audubon Society. Dr. Elvis J. Stahr, President of National Audubon Society, will introduce the banquet speaker, Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Plans are in the making for a bus trip, including stops along the way for birding, from St. Louis to Grand Island, Nebraska and return. If you are interested in this exciting trip please mail a post card to the St. Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122 and details will be sent you.



A COMPARISON OF 1971-1970 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS IN THE ST. LOUIS AREA



	Pere Marquette		Orchard Farm		Busch	
	Mark Twain Refuge		1971	1970	Wildlife Area	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Pied-billed Grebe	--	--	--	--	1	1
Great Blue Heron	4	--	--	--	--	--
Whistling Swan	2	--	--	--	--	--
Canada Goose	1,970	500	19	--	527	797
White-fronted Goose		--	--		--	6
Snow Goose	1,500	800	--	511	1	
Blue Goose	4,500	3,200	--	2,075	--	--
Mallard	16,530	15,000	153	58	461	1,159
Black Duck	685	199	1	--	6	24
Gadwall	85	2	--	--	2	56
Pintail	276	6	--	--	1	13
Green-winged Teal	8	--	--	--	7	4
Wood Duck	--	--	--	--		2
American Widgeon	27	13	--	--	19	12
Shoveler	3	--	--	--	--	
Redhead	2	--	--	--	--	
Ring-necked Duck	184	--	--		12	80
Canvasback	20	63	--	11	1	4
Greater Scaup	--	2	--	--	--	--
Lesser Scaup	15	150	--	--	2	2
Common Goldeneye	31	180	--	37	--	1
Bufflehead	14	--	--	--	--	--
Ruddy Duck	19	2	--	--	--	--
Hooded Merganser	2	--	--	--	--	3
Common Merganser	402	715	--	--	--	--
Sharp-shinned Hawk	--	--	--	--	2	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	--	1	--	--
Accipiter (Sp.)			--		1	
Red-tailed Hawk	40	36	26	15	15	24
Harlan's Hawk	--	1	--	--	--	--
Rough-legged Hawk	5	--	2	2	--	--
Bald Eagle-Grd.	45	75	2	3	--	--
Bald Eagle-Air		60				
Marsh Hawk	15	4	27	13	1	2
Sparrow Hawk	13	13	17	10	1	6
Bobwhite	82	16	67	--	141	81
Ring-necked Pheasant	--	--	7	--	1	1
American Coot	177	--	12	--	5	--
Killdeer	17	3	3	--	16	--
Common Snipe	16	--	--	--	--	--
Herring Gull	1	4	8	3	--	--
Ring-billed Gull	230	336	368	119	--	--
Mourning Dove	102	64	159	27	9	61
Screech Owl	1	4	--	--	--	--
Great Horned Owl	4	1	--	--	1	--
Barred Owl	3	6	--	1	2	1
Long-eared Owl	--	--	--	--	2	--
Short-eared Owl	--	--	8	--	--	--
Belted Kingfisher	1	--	1	--	9	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker	126	74	22	23	77	152
Pileated Woodpecker	16	11	--	1	9	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	123	98	14	28	143	159
Red-headed Woodpecker	122	48	31	9	19	44
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	--	1	--	3	9
Hairy Woodpecker	24	3	2	4	19	14
Downy Woodpecker	249	95	22	38	124	129

	Pere Marquette		Orchard Farm		Busch	
	Mark Twain Refuge				Wildlife Area	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Horned Lark	4	2	116	61	14	8
Blue Jay	156	123	26	29	251	318
Common Crow	230	284	175	362	82	125
Black-capped Chickadee	222	207	31	32	253	360
Carolina Chickadee	--	--	2	1	--	--
Tufted Titmouse	198	95	35	20	188	176
White-breasted Nuthatch	63	23	2	7	55	43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	--	1	--	--	2	5
Brown Creeper	17	14	5	3	12	10
Winter Wren	--	--	--	--	4	--
Carolina Wren	90	23	8	8	103	68
Short-billed Marsh Wren	2	--	--	--	--	--
Mockingbird	19	9	10	10	64	27
Brown Thrasher	--	--	--	1	4	2
Robin	30	11	25	2	477	67
Hermit Thrush	--	--	--	--	1	3
Eastern Bluebird	92	45	6	--	132	120
Golden-crowned Kinglet	29	5	1	--	34	15
Ruby-crowned Kniglet	2	5	--	--	--	--
Cedar Waxwing	59	55	79	5	1,689	216
Loggerhead Shrike	5	5	1	--	1	1
Starling	1,228	600	456	2,325	936	80
Myrtle Warbler	4	18	1	--	53	6
Yellow Throat	--	1	--	--	--	--
House Sparrow	1,984	1,996	1,251	365	919	591
European Tree Sparrow	110	98	53	21	--	--
Eastern Meadowlark	112	4	212	52	59	113
Western Meadowlark	2	--	--	--	--	1
Red-winged Blackbird	2,966	600	1,937	5,122	400	219
Rusty Blackbird	7	--	9	--	--	--
Brewer's Blackbird	--	--	4	--	--	--
Common Grackle	761	8,800	130	2,209	11	2,547
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	3	164	7	--	--
Cardinal	619	319	117	115	586	647
Purple Finch	--	9	--	--	9	28
Pine Siskin	--	--	8	--	3	--
American Goldfinch	106	--	65	16	504	604
Rufous-sided Towhee	--	--	--	--	4	10
Savannah Sparrow	3	--	--	--	--	--
Le Conte's Sparrow	1	--	--	--	5	--
Slate-colored Junco	640	689	74	72	1,350	1,654
Oregon Junco	--	--	--	--	1	--
Tree Sparrow	217	195	148	133	451	436
Chipping Sparrow	--	1	--	--	--	--
Field Sparrow	11	10	13	--	28	76
White-crowned Sparrow	13	7	4	--	158	142
White-throated Sparrow	22	7	1	2	62	51
Fox Sparrow	14	1	--	2	10	10
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--	--	--	2	--
Swamp Sparrow	126	20	1	--	58	99
Song Sparrow	213	76	29	34	247	206
Lapland Longspur	--	--	1	311	--	--
Total Species	83	70	59	49	72	68
Individuals	38,076	36,543	6,172	14,316	10,838	12,037
(Approximations)						

HELPING THE BLUEBIRDS
by Edgar Denison



In this day and age we are constantly reminded of the plight of living creatures which are being pushed out of existence by Man's so-called progress. Often we feel helpless, but there are instances where we Can do something. One of those gratifying cases involves the BLUEBIRDS.

In their natural habitat bluebirds relied on cavities in trees for nesting sites. These trees had to be near or in the borders of woods. Man has to a large degree eliminated such "defective" trees but the bluebirds found a serviceable substitute homestead in the knot-holes of fenceposts which were part of our country's rural development. As long as fenceposts with holes existed, this was a workable arrangement. But, Man progresses, and fenceposts came to be factory produced: slender stakes without imperfections and certainly no holes. The bluebird population was in serious trouble and fewer and fewer could be observed.

But then bird-lovers started to build houses for them, and the bluebirds accepted them readily. Wherever nesting homes have been made available, the bluebirds come back. At the Missouri Botanical Garden at Gray Summit a bluebird house installed one early Spring morning was occupied two hours later.

The plan for the houses is simple enough. Wood should be at least 5/8 inches thick. Dimensions with exception of the entrance hole, which must be exactly 1½ inches in diameter, are somewhat flexible. Where to install the houses? They should be mounted well off the ground - five to six feet high. Find an open location - fencerows, the border of woods. Do not expect bluebirds to nest in a home nailed to a house or barn. They like a sweep of meadow to hunt their insect-diet. Water must be available at a reasonable distance.

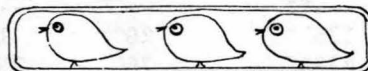
The bluebird houses should be rot-proofed by dipping in a penta solution. I use a concentrate in kerosene to which I add enough creosote to give the bird-houses a neutral brown color. After rot treatment the houses should be exposed to the elements for several months before they are installed for occupancy.

Two enemies do great harm to eggs and fledglings: Blacksnakes and Raccoons - both very valuable members of our ecological environment. A double thickness of wood where the entrance is located frustrates the short arms of Rackety Coon, and a flaring shield of galvanized iron makes it impossible for blacksnakes to do their climbing to eat the eggs.

All the boxes which I have made (over 300) were constructed from the wood of grocery boxes, salvaged at the big supermarkets. Only the end-pieces are useful - but they make very satisfactory bird houses.

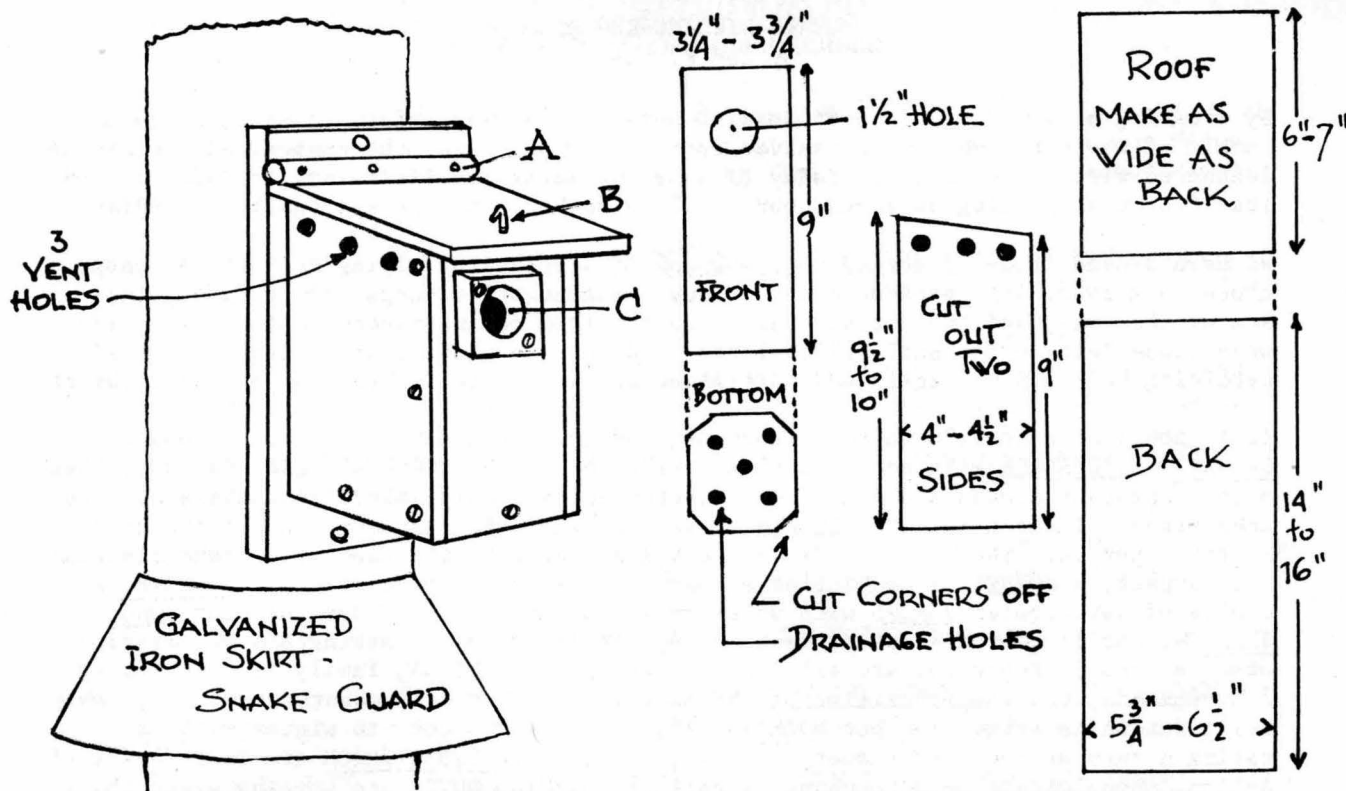
The building of these houses should be of special interest to Scouts in their Conservation work.

Let's go to work and do our little part in helping a gorgeous bird, the State Bird of Missouri, survive.



The law doth punish man or woman
that steals the goose from off the commons,
But lets the greater felon loose
that steals the commons from the goose.

Author unknown,
c. 1764



- A. Dowel or Half - or Quarter-round. Nail to Back with rounded part against roof. Slide roof underneath.
 - B. Screw-hook with bent hook section, remove for house-cleaning.
 - C. Block with $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch hole frustrates egg-stealing Raccoons
- Score back of Front with chisel for toe-holds of fledglings.

BIRD AMBULANCE reviewed by Nan Day

Non-addicts as well as real bird-lovers will enjoy a new (1971) book published by Charles Scribners Sons, Bird Ambulance, by Arline Thomas.

From a simple beginning, curing a broken-winged nuthatch which she found in her own yard, Mrs. Thomas has progressed to fame as the lady to call, in the New York area, when you find a sick or injured bird. She is a volunteer with the bird-saving corps of the Audubon Society in Manhattan.

Photographs of Mrs. Thomas' wild patients have been "converted" by Joseph Stanley in a process which produces a fine-grained texture, admirably conveying the soft feel of fur and feathers.

There are many tidbits of fascinating scientific information. "She also fed him (an owl) bits of feathered skin, which she scissored from the chicken heads that were part of his diet. Like all birds of prey, he had to have either fur or feathers in his diet to stimulate his digestion and clean out his stomach. Some hours after this meal, he spit up an oval pellet, consisting of feathers with any indigestible matter neatly wrapped inside."

The greatest delight in the book is the author's sense of humor. "At feeding time, I lined the (three) robins up on their perch, putting the scared newcomer (a baby bluejay) at the end. Facetiously, I began to count off, moving down the row with a tweezerful of food. "Eeny, meeny, miney - "

"Mo!" suddenly said the jay. Astounded, I picked him up. "Mo!" he repeated ... then I realized that this was his special baby call...in fact his only note until he was old enough to jabber in jay language."

YARD-BIRDING REWARDS

by Lee F. Mason

By creating a little "environment oasis" here in the midst of the rumble, ruck, and rankle of the city, we find ourselves continually amazed at the number and variety of feathered visitors we enjoy. Today (January 4) after the first snow of 1972 settled itself over everything outdoors, our little bird haven was exceptionally rewarding.

We have a seed-feeder fastened to the trunk of a sprawling, aging apple tree, very close to a convenient bird-watching window. A suet stick hangs from a strong inner arm of the tree, and two net suet sacks dangle from outer branches. There's a tidy wren house left up for sheltering little birds during winter, and a tangle of leaf-retaining Hall's Honeysuckle and multiflora nearby for the protection of larger birds.

It is now just past 3:30 in the afternoon, and enlivening the scene are a couple of CAROLINA CHICKADEES with neatly outlined black bibs; two EUROPEAN TREE SPARROWS, their bright chestnut crowns and dark cheek patches unmistakably identifying these St. Louis area birds. I see a male PURPLE FINCH, smeared with the raspberry hue of the true artist's purple. There's a HAIRY WOODPECKER clinging to the suet stick, and his smaller counterpart, a DOWNY, is pecking at a suet bag. Several olive drab GOLDFINCHES, a couple of dark-coated JUNCOS with white underwear showing, and our resident SONG SPARROW, who'll be the first to announce spring is coming by making his optimistic observations in February, are all busily feeding. A CARDINAL family is enjoying sunflower seeds, and the vermillion of the male is spectacularly counterpointed by the brilliant white snow. Our pet MOCKINGBIRD, spending his seventh winter with us, is taking a turn at the larger suet bag. A scatter of TUFTED TITMICE are in a flurry of action. Shoulders almost touching, a pair of MOURNING DOVES are working under the feeder. A lone ROBIN, surfeited on plumped raisins taken from the mockingbird's raisin dish, rests in the house-sheltered tree. Where we have swept away the snow and scattered seeds and crumbs, are myriad sparrows, STARLINGS, and BLUEJAYS.

This morning, almost at the moment the last snowflake settled into the spotless fluff of white, birds flew in to our little oasis. A YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER poked at the seeds in the feeder; a BROWN THRASHER that had not migrated discovered the mockingbird's raisins in the plastic bowl fastened to a porch pillar. He then topped that snatched tid-bit with a few pecks at one of the suet bags. A BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE went in and out of the wren house, while a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER found something to his taste in the seed-spread. Above them a WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, who had lingered too long in his journey through the area, skitted from branch to branch, watching the activity below where a WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, with its prominent white underchin and lemon-yellow lores, pecked at the food in the cleared circle. A CAROLINA WREN, that largest of the eastern wrens (supposedly common here all year but we see it in our yard only in the dead of winter), came in for some high calorie nourishment. Puffed to a rufous-buffy ball against the cold the bird attacked the suet with gusto. In the galaxy was a first in our 20-years of yard-birding at this address: a SAVANNAH SPARROW - yes, it was! - that heavily streaked breast, the short notched tail, the yellow above the eyes. It perched high in the tree, as if waiting for the other birds to have their fill first.

That's twenty-three species, plus the ever-present house sparrows: all in one day - all in view of one window - all in and around one tree! So, if field birding is not for you, let the birds know they're welcome at your house, and they'll flock to it. Provide a suitable tree, a bit of thorny bramble, some fruiting bushes, seeding flowers or grasses, and water. If you have flower beds, don't clean them up until spring - they offer wonderful forage for little seed eaters.

And if you elect to supplement natural food sources with a feeding station, NEVER slacken while there is need. Begin your feeding program when the leaves have fallen from the trees, and DON'T STOP until the leaves again appear on the trees. Keep feeding plots clean, provide water, and never use metal items of any kind for winter feeding of wild birds. Their eyes and tongues may be seriously injured by contact with cold metal in freezing weather.

"Yard-birding" may not add much to anyone's life-list-of-birds, but, very definitely, it will add much to your life!

CALENDAR

There will be birding trips each Wednesday and Thursday throughout February and March sponsored by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. For information on the Wednesday trips call Sally Phillips, 821-2216. For the Thursday trips call Eleanor Marcus, 227-1290.

Tuesday, February 8, 7:30 P.M. FILM: OF BROCCOLI AND PELICANS AND CELERY AND SEALS. Speaker Dr. Stephen Dina, sponsored by St. Louis University and the Sierra Club. Knights Room, Pope Pius XII Library.

Friday, February 11, 8:00 P.M. WGNSS, INDOOR NATURE ADVENTURE, County Library, 1640 S. Lindbergh. RAFTING THE COLORADO via words and pictures. Dr. Philip Gale.

Saturday, February 12, 8:00 A.M. WGNSS BUSCH WILDLIFE AREA MONTHLY CENSUS, meet at Shop Lake. Also March 11.

Saturday, February 19 and Sunday February 27, 8:00 A.M. AUDUBON NATURE WALK at Shaw's Garden Arboretum, Gray Summit, Mo. Meet at main gate. Also March 18 and 26.

Saturday, February 19, ST. LOUIS AUDUBON ANNUAL EAGLE COUNT (see page 1.).

Wednesday, February 23, 7:30 P.M. FILMS: TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS and THE PROBLEM IS LIFE, Speaker, Dr. William Monohan. St. Louis U. (see Feb. 8).

Friday, March 3, 8:15 P.M. AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM: TWENTIETH CENTURY WILDERNESS. Shown at Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington. (Several well-lighted parking lots adjacent.) Tom Sterling will explore the varieties of wilderness and their inhabitants, from the Rockies to the Everglades.

Friday, March 11, 8:00 P.M. WGNSS, INDOOR NATURE ADVENTURE. County Library. Mr. and Mrs. Burrell Pickering will tell the story of SUNNY RANCH, their private wildlife refuge and Nature study area.

Monday, March 13, 7:30 P.M. FILM: OPEN SPACE. Speaker, Dr. James Scott, St. Louis U., (See Feb. 8).

March 17-20, ST. LOUIS AUDUBON GRAND ISLE TRIP (see pg. 5).

LET'S HELP

The Academy of Science is a potent force in teaching children conservation along with basic natural science. Classes are brought to the area four days a week (Mondays excluded). The education department would like to expand their activities and schedule more classes during the spring season when the children can be out of doors.

Volunteers are needed to take groups on bird and general nature walks for the period April 18 thru June 2. The schedule calls for three periods daily - 9:45 AM, 10:45 AM and 1:15 PM. Volunteers are needed for one, two or three periods on specific days. It can be for one period on one day, for a given day each week or more. But we must know in advance so that a schedule can be arranged with the schools.

It is not necessary that you be an expert - a knowledge of the common birds and some of their habits is more important than being able to identify all the warblers. If you can help on this project please contact:

Miss Margaret Feigley
5616 Oleatha 63139
Tel. 481-7331

Volunteering will enable you to serve and at the same time enjoy the many facets of nature on these beautiful grounds.

Bird Locations

Travelers to various parts of the country can obtain current bird activity by calling telephone reports sponsored by local Audubon groups.

Southern California — Los Angeles Audubon Society — 213 874-1318

Washington, D. C., Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware — Atlantic Naturalist Society — 202 652-3295

Massachusetts — Massachusetts Audubon Society — 617 259-8805

Western Massachusetts — Massachusetts Audubon Society — 617 566-3590

New York City, Long Island, Coastal New Jersey — New York Audubon Society — 516 485-2170

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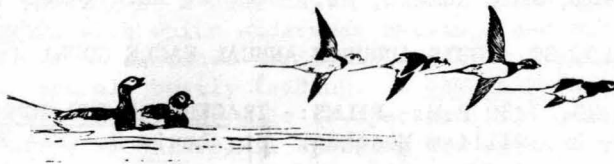
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A REMINDER: Displaying your National Audubon sticker on your car shows your interest in conservation and our environment.

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